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To: The Federal Communication Commission
Washington, DC

My name is Lee Nettles and I am writing in response to your request for comments in the "Notice of Inquiry," MS 95-176,FCC95-484" released December 4, 1995.

- [Paragraph 14-16] Why I feel caption is important in community and local programming. In 1980's there was a train derailment in my town, Greenfield, Ma. Evacuation was necessary due to a chemical leak from one of the train's car. One deaf grandmother in her 40's was not aware that this have happen across the street from her apartment. She was busy doing things and watching TV. She saw a special bulletin word on screen but no indication of what it was about or its location. She ignored it and waited for her program to come back on. Police have warned all residents nearby and when police came to her door asking her to get out she still left with no understanding why everyone was out of her apartment complex. She at first assumed that there was something wrong with inside her apt complex like maybe gas pipe broke and for safety everyone was taken out. Once she was on the road she saw alot of cops and cars giving directions and communicating with drivers, she then realized there was something wrong larger than her apt complex. Assuming it could be a nuclear emergency since we have two nuclear power plants nearby Rowe Yankee operating since 1959 as well as Vermont Yankee since 1973. (Greenfield is in federal's NRC 10 mile zone evacuation plan.) Her first thought was her grandchildren in school and attempted to pick them up. A Police officer told her to move on as she tried to write a note , he ignored her. She stopped at nearby bar which have a TV to try to get a picture of what was going on. Since she cannot hear the car radio . After a few moments of trying to get information from people at the bar she got frustrated and drove half an hour south to her hearing friends home. They try to help her to find out what was happening through radio and TV. Finally, she was told that she could pick up children and when she arrived they were not there. She tried not to panic and tried to find ways to locate them and was able to pick them up after some written communication with school staff.

These course of events was very stressful. She was more stressed than average people who have better access to information. These would not be

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necessary if TV programming was captioned as part of emergency broadcasting.

[Paragraph 14] In another occasion I experience the following in Springfield MA. One day, a drunk driver going the wrong way on Interstate 91 hit a truck trailer carrying unburned fuel, uranium going to a nuclear facility in Vermont to be used as nuclear fuel to generate electric power. The truck caught on fire and its load burned in the middle of the city. Firefighters couldn't put water on it because it would contaminate the Conn. River next to it. At first there was the possibility of radiation until it was discovered that it was not dangerous. It was decided to let it burn out itself which lasted 24 hours. I happen to work 4 blocks away all day not aware of what was happening. When I turn on the local news there was a picture of a burning truck at that location. I was shocked when I read the newspaper the next day and realized the gravity of the situation !

Another major event in Springfield not long ago was a main water pipe break in downtown next to the river very early in the morning. The broken pipe swallow the road and vehicles into the hole. There was water contamination. The water flooded the roads and washed down to the river mixing the water and making it undrinkable. The local TV news announced the break and advised citizens not to drink water. Many deaf already brushed their teeth, took a shower and drink water before going to work or doing activities. Many deaf got paranoid, how safe was the water and how dangerous. Will they get sick, will they die? It was hours before they could get information from local TV assuring deaf people of safety rules. Is that fair ? TV stations should provide 100 percent closed caption at all times no matter. There is too much room for error if its not 100 percent captioning.

[Paragraph 14-16] The amount of captioning on broadcast or cable television and opinions on how to expand the service. Sports should also be caption because I would like very much to go to sport events like Boston Red Sox baseball game or Springfield Indians hockey in civic center or stadium. Many times I feel bad that I must inconvenience other fans to find out the details of the game. I felt its not equal peer enjoyment. I have been to DC to see the Senate and House discussions. There is a special booth that have real time closed caption TV. I can read what is being discussed and observe the activities going on. I was able to discuss this with other hearing

peers since we both received the information at an equal pace. Why not have something like that in sporting events? We can watch the activities and watch closed captioning announcing going on at same time.

[Paragraph 28-31] Everything should be closed caption in order for deaf people to have equal access. However, movie theaters should be mandated to provide captions. Deaf people have to wait until the release of video tapes and TV programming movies before we are able to share our view of the movie to other peers who have done so ahead of time. Our conversation becomes somewhat outdated to them . I personally have not been to movies for many years, since the discovery of closed caption. I was glued to the TV, reading the captions. Like Sunday night at the movies on TV.

In conclusion I feel that closed caption is a vital need in local television, movies and sports.

Respectfully Submitted,



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